

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 15 wherein the cutting action of the blade causes debris created by the cutting to be ejected from the recess through the expulsion aperture and into the exhaust passage substantially along a first direction, and the airflow in the conduit is directed within the body to a point below the expulsion aperture and then is blown across the expulsion aperture substantially along a second direction where the first direction of the debris and the second direction of the airflow intersect at an acute angle.

4. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 3 wherein a wall defining the expulsion aperture also defines a top portion of the expulsion aperture, said top portion located at a height above the shoe, and the planer body further defines a nozzle the conduit at substantially the same height as the top portion of the expulsion aperture, and the airflow from the conduit divides into a first part and a second part, the first part of the airflow passes the point below the expulsion aperture before flowing past the

expulsion aperture, and the second part of the airflow passes through the nozzle and then exits the nozzle in a substantially third direction, and the third direction of nozzle airflow and the first direction of the debris intersect at an acute angle.

5. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 3 wherein the conduit directs the airflow over the removable deflector prior to directing the airflow to the point below the expulsion aperture.

6. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 5 wherein the removable deflector defines a portion of the conduit where the airflow passes over the deflector.

7. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 15 further comprising a flap movable from a first position where the flap closes the first exhaust aperture to a second position where the flap does not close the first exhaust aperture.

8. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 15 further comprising a flap movable from a first position where the flap closes the first exhaust aperture to a second position where the flap closes the second exhaust aperture.

9. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 8 wherein the flap extends from the body, the flap directs the airflow and entrained debris through the second exhaust aperture.

10. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 7 wherein the flap is pivotally mounted within the body and pivotable between the first position and the second position.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 10 wherein the flap extends from a pivot axis to a side of the planer.

13. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 7 wherein the flap is resiliently biased to the first position.

14. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 13 further comprising a spring, the spring biasing the flap to the first position.

15. (Currently Amended) A planer comprising:
a shoe, the shoe defining an aperture;
a body mounted on the shoe, the body defining an exhaust passage having a first exhaust aperture on a first side of the body and a second exhaust aperture on a second side of the body, and including a wall, the wall defining a recess;
a cutting drum rotatably mounted within the recess, the drum having a periphery and a portion of the periphery of the cutting drum projects through the aperture in the shoe;

an expulsion aperture formed in said wall connecting said recess to said exhaust passage;

a motor mounted within the body to rotatably drive the cutting drum;

a cutting blade mounted on the periphery of the drum and adapted for cutting a work piece when the drum is rotating, the cutting action of the blade causing debris created by the cutting to be ejected from the recess through said expulsion aperture into said exhaust passage;

an airflow generator comprising a fan for producing an airflow within the body;

a conduit defined within the body for directing the airflow from said airflow generator into said exhaust passage at a location adjacent said ~~recess~~expulsion aperture that results in said airflow flowing in a substantially upward direction to entrain and remove debris ejected from the recess; and

a removable deflector having an inner end and an outer end, the deflector insertable through one of the first exhaust aperture and the second exhaust aperture and connectable to the exhaust passage for guiding the airflow and entrained debris from within the body to outside of the body.

16. (Currently Amended) The planer of claim 15 wherein said exhaust passage extends in a substantially upward direction from said location adjacent said ~~recess~~expulsion aperture to said exhaust apertures.

17. (Currently Amended) The planer of claim 16 wherein said conduit connects to said exhaust passage at a location at or below said ~~recess~~expulsion aperture.

18. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 17 wherein the airflow from said conduit is directed to be blown across said expulsion aperture.

19. (Previously Presented) The planer of claim 18 wherein the airflow from said conduit is directed to be blown across said expulsion aperture at an acute angle relative to the direction of travel of any debris ejected from said recess.

20. (Currently Amended) The planer of claim 17 wherein said conduit connects to said exhaust passage at a first location below said ~~recess~~expulsion aperture and at a second location at approximately the same height as said ~~recess~~expulsion aperture.